



NO GUNS FOR GANGS AND DRUGS: ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PA POLICE USE NIBIN TO STOP ILLEGAL SALES

DECEMBER 1999



The Allegheny County Coroner's Office, Division of Laboratories (Allegheny Crime Lab) services local law enforcement agencies, university police departments, and agencies in surrounding counties. Most of their assignments stem from crime in the city of Pittsburgh. In June 1998, the Allegheny Crime Lab entered into a partnership with ATF in combating violent crime. The lab obtained Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) technology from the ATF National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) Program. The laboratory receives over 1000 firearms each year for examination. An IBIS hit of notable interest occurred in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area.

From January 1997 until June 1998, a subject from Pittsburgh purchased 10 firearms from a local Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL). The ATF Pittsburgh Firearms Trafficking Task Force conducted an investigation into the purchases. During the course of the investigation, 3 of the 10 firearms were recovered by local law enforcement during the investigation of various crimes in the Western District of Pennsylvania.

One of the firearms, a 9mm Beretta Model 92FS pistol, purchased in January 1997 by the suspect, was recovered by the Wilkesburg,

Pennsylvania, Police Department. The weapon had been used in an "Aggravated Assault and Armed Robbery" (*a home invasion*). The firearm was examined and entered into IBIS by the Allegheny Crime Lab. Through this identification system, the firearm was linked to two unrelated violent crimes, a November 1997 homicide in Penn Hills and an October 1997 shooting ("*Criminal Mischief*") incident that occurred in Pittsburgh.

The second firearm was recovered during a gang-related assault, and the third firearm was recovered following a "shots fired" incident outside a local bar. Neither of those firearms yielded any IBIS hits.

Based on the recovery of the firearms and on information provided by the FFL, the subject was interviewed by the ATF Task Force. The subject waived his rights and provided a statement regarding his unlawful sale of firearms to associates involved in gang-related and drug-related activities in Pittsburgh.

On December 8, 1999, the subject was charged with "Dealing Firearms without a License". This one-count Federal indictment was filed in conjunction with "Operation TARGET," the Western District of Pennsylvania's Firearms Violence Reduction Initiative.